administrative financial and logistic arrangements. Kalpavriksh is the Coordinator of a Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG) and responsible for technical execution of the project. To oversee the implementation of the project, a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from relevant Central Sectoral Ministries/Departments and experts has been constituted.

(c) The BSAP project was officially launched on 11-4-2000 by the Minister for Environment and Forests.

(d) No, Sir.

Decline in the Tiger Population in Orissa

4288. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of tigers in Orissa has declined as per the recent census in 1998 ;

(b) what are the reasons that subsequent to Simplipal in 1972, no further areas have been included in Orissa, under Project Tiger;

(c) whether Government have initiated any sreps to include more areas in the State under the Project Tiger Scheme; and

(d) what are the reasons that dispite the rich potential for Sunabeda and Satkosia George, the Project Tiger Scheme is not being set up there ?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) There has been a marginal decreas in the tiger population in Orissa between 1989 to 1993 and between 1993 to 1997. The population of tigers in the State of Orissa is as under :

State	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1997
Orissa	142	173	202	243	226	194

(b) to (d) The Government of Orissa has proposed to include Satkosia George Sanctuary as Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger Scheme. The Steering Committee of Project Tiger has to consider the proposal before taking further action.